

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 234.6, the Department of Human Services amends Chapter 58, “Emergency Assistance,” and Chapter 153, “Funding for Local Services,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, Public Law 110-329, appropriated \$600 million in additional funds to the Social Services Block Grant to address necessary expenses resulting from hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters occurring during 2008 which the President declared major disasters and from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Iowa was awarded \$11,157,944 under this legislation.

The funds are administered through the Department of Human Services as the single state agency for the Social Services Block Grant, but have been allocated to three departments (Human Services, Public Health, and Elder Affairs) for qualifying expenditures. Of the \$4,979,944 allocated to the Department of Human Services, the Department’s amendment to the Social Services Block Grant Pre-Expenditure Report provides that \$3,330,627 will be used to fund a new mental health counseling program for persons directly affected by the weather-related disasters of 2008.

These amendments adopt new Division V in Chapter 58 to implement this program, which is called Ticket to Hope. Under this program, people in need of mental health services may receive up to eight authorized 45- to 50-minute psychotherapy sessions with an approved mental health provider. Access to the program will be through the Iowa Concern Hotline, which will determine eligibility, authorize services, and submit claims to the Department of Human Services for payment. The services will be provided at no cost to the person receiving counseling.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations, since the changes benefit the persons affected by offering care that is not otherwise accessible. Requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department’s general rule on exceptions at 441—1.8(17A,217).

These amendments were Adopted and Filed Emergency and published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on March 25, 2009, as **ARC 7641B**. Notice of Intended Action on these amendments was published on the same date as **ARC 7642B** to solicit public comments. The Department received no comments on the Notice of Intended Action. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice of Intended Action and Adopted and Filed Emergency.

The Council on Human Services adopted these amendments on May 13, 2009.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

These amendments shall become effective on July 8, 2009.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Pursuant to recommendation of the Administrative Rules Review Committee published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin, September 10, 1986, the text of these amendments [58.61 to 58.68, 153.8] is being omitted. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice as **ARC 7642B** and Adopted and Filed Emergency as **ARC 7641B**, IAB 3/25/09.

[Filed 5/13/09, effective 7/8/09]

[Published 6/3/09]

[For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 6/3/09.]